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Aus meinem Leben. It is not a translation by any means. The headlines of the chapters are mostly the same, though some are changed and some left out. The 641 pages of the original are condensed to 336 much smaller pages. The maker of this version—no name is given—has simply taken the main thoughts of the original work and given them in his own words. The great events of Bebel's life are faithfully recorded; but there is no exact account of his life and labors, and many of the reprinted documents are missing. If the author of the English edition wished merely to bring the fundamental facts of Bebel's life before the general reader he has fulfilled his purpose. But the student of political, economic, and social development cannot be satisfied with this rendering of the work. He must consult the original.

HANS GRONOW

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Patomac Route to the West. By MRS. CORRA BACON-FOSTER. Washington: Columbia Historical Society, 1912. 8vo, pp. viii+267. \$3.00.

This book, which comprises a series of papers read by the author before the Columbia Historical Society, is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the incorporation of the Ohio Company and the establishment of the Nemaquin Trail as the first organized effort to reach the country west of the Alleghany Mountains and to control its trade for the Patomac route. The second part gives an account of the Patomac Company from the time of its organization in 1785 until it was taken over by the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company in 1828, and tells of its efforts to make the Patomac Route the leading outlet to the West. The last division is devoted to the letters of Colonel Charles Simms.

The style of this collection of papers is simple and pleasing with no effort at brilliancy. Writing of an early period whose sources of historical material are meager, the author shows rare genius in the body of facts she has collected and woven into her narrative. The second part is valuable for the side-lights it throws on (1) the jealousies existing in the colonies, and later in the states, over the western territory and its trade; (2) the difficulties attending canal and lock construction at a time when civil engineering was in its infancy; and (3) the public and private life of such men as Washington, Jefferson, Randolph, Franklin, and Morris. The last part is illustrative of the difficulties of land-holding west of the Alleghany Mountains on account of the conflicting

claims of the states. The book is a permanent contribution to the political, industrial, and commercial history of our country, and is a fitting introduction to the westward movement which, precipitated by the incorporation of the Ohio Company in 1748, never ceased until the disappearance of the frontier in 1880.

B. WALTER KING

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

The Supreme Court and Unconstitutional Legislation. By BLAINE FREE MOORE, "Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law," Vol. LIV, No. 2. New York: Columbia University, 1913. 8vo, pp. 158. \$1.00.

This monograph is an exposition and criticism of the most important cases in which the United States Supreme Court has exercised the power of declaring laws unconstitutional. It contains little that is novel, but has put in succinct form much that has been written of recent years concerning this power which the courts have exercised over legislation.

The author considers the origin of this power, first in the state courts and then in the United States Supreme Court, and after a review of the cases in the former he comes to the conclusion that this unique "assumption" of power by a branch of government was aggressively and boldly claimed by many state courts contemporaneously, without the foundation or excuse of constitutional grant, and without even the attempted proof that the power was intended to be implied from the constitution by the framers. The author finds that the United States Supreme Court also asserted this power without even an attempted justification by the quotation of state or national precedents, and that while the court was somewhat reluctant early in its existence to interfere with state governments by nullifying acts of the state legislatures, it did this with little compunction at a somewhat later period. Today, the author concludes, the court even assumes the attitude of a superior disciplining an inferior when it declares state legislation void. This has been one of the sources of criticism of the court.

In analyzing the statutes nullified by the Supreme Court the author concludes that Congress has not been very seriously checked by the Supreme Court; that so far as the division and co-ordination of powers goes, very little use has been made of this principle except to protect the power of the court itself; that so far as the civil rights of the individual are concerned, the court has efficiently but not aggressively protected them; that in questions involving important political policy the court has uniformly and signally failed; and finally, that in questions affecting social-economic problems the court has checked Congress in a few well-known instances, but not generally. The author concludes by briefly adverting to the two constitutional remedies